

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03397 232342Z

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SS-15 CPR-01 SSO-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8821

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 3397

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, UN, KN
SUBJECT: SUSPECTED HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT INVOLVING MEMBER OF
DPRK OBSERVER MISSION

1. LATE AUGUST 20 MISSION WAS INFORMED BY NEW YORK POLICE
THAT AN AUTOMOBILE BEARING LICENSE PLATES REGISTERED TO
DPRK OBSERVER MISSION HAD STRUCK A CYCLIST ON NEW YORK
STREET AND LEFT THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT. CYCLIST WAS
DETERMINED TO HAVE SUFFERED ONLY MINOR BRUISES AND WAS
NOT HOSPITALIZED.

2. FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE BY THE POLICE OVER
THE WEEKEND RESULTED AUGUST 23 IN THE FOLLOWING PICTURE
OF THE INCIDENT FROM POLICE SOURCES: A GROUP OF THREE
BOYS ON BICYCLES ATTEMPTED TO CROSS AN INTERSECTION ON
A RED LIGHT. A CAR DRIVEN BY DPRK OBSERVER MISSION
OFFICER, TRAVELLING INTO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE
GREEN LIGHT, SLIGHTLY HIT ONE OF THE BICYCLES, THROWING
THE RIDER TO THE PAVEMENT. THE DRIVER STOPPED AND DE-
BARKED FROM THE CAR. A UNIFORMED NEW YORK TRAFFIC
CONTROL OFFICER WAS PRESENT, AND WHEN THE BICYCLIST
CLAIMED HE WAS UNINJURED SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE
DPRK DRIVER PROCEED FROM THE SCENE. IT WAS ONLY
LATER THAT THE CYCLIST'S BRUISES FELT SUFFICIENTLY
PAINFUL TO CHECK AT LENOX HILL HOSPITAL, WHERE
QUESTIONS BY HOSPITAL STAFF PRODUCED THE INFORMATION
THAT THE DRIVER HAD LEFT THE SCENE, WHICH WAS
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03397 232342Z

RELAYED TO THE POLICE. THIS STORY HAS BEEN

CORROBORATED BY THE INJURED CYCLIST AND ONE OF HIS COMPANIONS. POLICE ARE PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSON FOR FURTHER CORROBORATION, BUT DO NOT EXPECT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FACTS TO EMERGE.

3. AT USUN REQUEST, THE POLICE APPROACHED THE DPRK MISSION AUGUST 23, WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED CORDIALLY AND OFFERED ALL COOPERATION. NORTH KOREANS LATER CONFIRMED THE INVOLVEMENT OF THEIR AUTOMOBILE AND INFORMED POLICE OF THE NAME OF THE DRIVER (CHO HONG-JUN, THIRD SECRETARY). THEY OFFERED COOPERATION IN CASE OF INSURANCE OR OTHER FOLLOW-UP ON THE CASE.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FACTS THAT THE CYCLISTS WERE CROSSING THE INTERSECTION AGAINST THE LIGHT (BY THEIR OWN ADMISSION), THERE WERE NO SERIOUS INJURIES AND THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSON RELEASED THE KOREAN DRIVER FROM THE SCENE, POLICE DO NOT AT THE MOMENT PLAN FURTHER ACTION IN THE CASE, UNLESS TESTIMONY FROM THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSON REVEALS DIFFERENT FACTS.

5. USUN PLANS NO FURTHER ACTION IN THE CASE.
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Message Attributes

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